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News

Operation Fuel "Affordability Gap" Press Conference December 20, 2012

Talking Points: Rob Norton, Commission on Aging Communications Director

Thanks for inviting us today, Pat!

The Commission on Aging would like to thank Pat, her entire staff, and the 100 fuel banks statewide, for their great work.

And thank you, Roger for your terrific work on the "Affordability Gap" report. So much of what happens here at the Capitol is driven by data and this report will be of great help to us.

Many of the 6,000 families served last year by Operation Fuel include older adults who live on low fixed incomes.

Connecticut is the 7th oldest state in the nation:

One million baby boomers; 65+ population will increase 64% by 2030; 930 centenarians--often surprises people.

As they struggle to make ends meet for themselves, many grandparents are caring for their grandchildren and may also be helping their children. Older adults are also experiencing high levels of unemployment, many for the first time.

So as we all know, it's a really tough economy; tougher when you're getting by on a low fixed income.

By providing up to \$500 in emergency assistance to these families and individuals to help them make ends meet, Operation Fuel helps Connecticut families across all age groups, in communities large and small.

One of the Commission on Aging's highest priorities is to help the state create public policy that allows older adults to age in place, in their own homes and communities.

By helping older adults achieve some measure of financial security, Operation Fuel is contributing to this goal in a real and meaningful way.

So we thank you for your hard work year after year, and we applaud everyone who donates to Operation Fuel.

Thanks, Pat.

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